International Journal of English and Literature (IJEL)
ISSN(P): 2249-6912; ISSN(E): 2249-8028
Vol. 7, Issue 2, Apr 2017, 139-142
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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE NOVEL 'WORLD ENOUGH AND TIME'

BHAGYASHREE. D & PATTANSHETTI

Assistant Professor, Department of Studies In English, Government First Grade College, Nesargi, Belagavi, Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT

The present paper analyses the novel from different points of view. The effect of globalization was to be seen in the life of common people. The period of history when there was the frontier fights at Kentucky region. The effects of the frontier fights on the life of the people of Kentucky region in America are beautifully told with a romantic story. Secondly, the background of their socio-economic and political powers and human folly are represented by the character Jeremiah Beaumont in the novel. Keeping these things as the background Robert Penn Warren tells the tra;gic love story of the youth tied up in the circumstances leaves the readers with some questions.

KEYWORDS: Kentucky Region, Jeremiah Beaumont, Globalization

Received: Feb 12, 2017; **Accepted**: Mar 28, 2017; **Published:** Apr 11, 2017; **Paper Id**.: IJELAPR201718

Original Article

INTRODUCTION

Relevance of the Study

The present study is an attempt to analyze the novel from various shades of experience. It is pertinent to study this in the 21 century when no society has remained uninfluenced by the mechanized world and becoming self centered. This in turn has resulted in man becoming selfish and greedy. Global culture is de centering the center, by centering the money and power in place of the human values which are now being marginalized. One can foresee that the moral values have no place in the speedy materialistic world. The sense of ethnicity is lost. The present study analyses these aspects in the novel.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The progress and development in the twenty first century is the outcome of rapid advancement in the field of science and technology. A sense of loss of identity and rootlessness, loss of moral values and ethics for greed persists in the society. Man is becoming self centered and greedy. In order to inculcate the moral values and to build an ideal society, there is a need to study some excellent works of various authors. To understand our follies and to get the solutions to the problems of our present day, it is necessary for us to study our past works. The main objective of the paper is to analyse the novel from various perspectives.

RESEARCH ON THE TOPIC

As far as the knowledge of the writer is concerned much research has been carried out in analyzing the novel as romantic tragedy. Analysing the novel from the globalised and multicultural, socio-political context is a new aspect.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The focus is will be on the analysis of the primary sources in the light of relevant criticism on the novel. The emphasis will be made on critical and analytical interpretation. The paper is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the effects of globalisation on the lives of native people. The second part deals with the human follies which results in hatredness, jealously and faithlessness among human beings. As a result of it there is a gradual change in the society. At the same time the paper leaves some questions with the reader to think over.

UNIQUENESS OF THE NOVEL

World Enough and Time is subtitled 'A Romantic Novel'. The novel recreates a famous history of Kentucky. It is appropriate to say that it is the Kentucky Tragedy which is recreated in the present novel. It is tragic indeed, for the novel traces the death of its hero in its final half. However, *World Enough and Time,* whose title is taken from Andrew Marvel's poem, To His Coy Mistress,To Make Much of Time, describes the lives of two very passionate lovers. It is the blend of romantic idealism and passion which makes the two lovers meet their end in destruction: hence, the novel may be called aptly a 'romantic novel', because its protagonists embody the spirit of romanticism.

Warren's epigraph for the novel is taken from a description of Edmund Spenser's knight Artegall, the hero of Book V of *The Faerie Queen.* Art gall is the knight of justice, who, along with his squire, Talos, administers a violent reckoning for those who have transgressed against the laws of God and Gloriana, the Fairy Queen. Since Warren has on one occasion compared Willie Stark to Talos, his implicit parallel between Artegall and Jeremiah Beaumont, the hero of *World Enough and Time,* establishes a philosophical link between this novel and *All the King's Men* (1946; please see separate entry), its immediate predecessor.

ANALYSES OF THE NOVEL

Robert Penn Warren, a great American novelist, poet and a critic has established his right to speak for his native Kentucky as well as Louisiana. Kentucky is the background and integral part of the long novel World Enough and Time (1950). It tells the story of Jeremiah Beaumont. The period finds Kentucky, in the early 19th century. Kentucky was the region which was just like our Kashmir today. From a background representative of those conflicts emerges a character Jeremiah, and the story tells of his brief journeys into the other world.

Jeremiah is represented by his violent grandfather. It is the story of Jeremiah's chance for an education in the law, of his tutelage under the esteemed lawyer and politician, Colonel Cassius Fort. Then Rachel a beautiful lady enters into his life. His passionate and erratic courtship culminates in first a promise to kill Fort. Like the lady Macbeth in Shakespeare's play motivates Macbeth to murder the king for the sake of this lady Jeremiah is ready for everything. Fort, who had betrayed and then deceived Rachel, by his false promise of marriage, leaves the promise unfulfilled. Jeremiah's twisted conscience drove him, this way and that putting him in the strange stage of dilemma. Rachel's abnormal and frustrated emotions and their strange, distorted relationship drove him further and later results in killing. A large portion of the book is concerned with the appropriateness of his actions. Jeremiah's confession and apologia is inter- woven into the story.

At the time of execution, Jeremiah's friend, (who is proved finally to have been his betrayer) Wilkie, plans his escape with Rachel Jordan. Jeremiah is angry with Wilkie. There's another strange interlude of seclusion in a western island colony -- then Rachel's death and later Jeremiah's violent end. The book is oddly dated in style and substance at the same time it is a rare book which mirrors the moods and passions of the times and is relevant to be read by the present

generations.

Jeremiah Beaumont was a brilliant and an imaginative lawyer. He is the one who murders his supporter and a notable politician Colonel Cassius Fort. The novel is based on the famous murder case in the history called Kentucky Tragedy. Beaumont's life can be reconstructed based on his crime, sin and his trial. The narrator gives the complete picture of Beaumont and makes the readers enjoy the personality of character. World Enough and Time is a fictional wonder that personifies history, philosophy, politics and passion.

Jeremiah Beaumont is born in Kentucky in 1801. Kentucky is the region with admixture of wilderness and elegant society. Jasper Beaumont was the father of Jeremiah was one of the first settlers in Glasgow County. His mother was the disinherited daughter of a wealthy planter. Jasper is an unsatisfied man. He is ambitious and he is unsuccessful in attaining his aim in life. We the readers see in his son the strains of Jasper's awkward moodiness. At the age of thirteen Jeremiah loses his father who dies of debt ridden and Jeremiah always thinks of a better life than his fathers'.

Jeremiah is hard-working and studious. Dr Burnham was his grandfather. He wished that Jeremiah would be his heir only if he takes his mother's maiden name, Marcher. But Jeremiah refuses to take it.

Dr Burnham is a famous lawyer and a politician, who is in search of a young man to train in his law office at Bowling Green. Because of his ailing mother though interested to accept he could not accept the offer. Fort says that he is willing to wait for anyone. Mrs. Beaumont dies in the spring. During the same time Jeremiah goes to Bowling Green, Washington to study law. There he develops a friendship with Wilkie Barron, another law student. After returning from Washington Fort tries to take Jeremiah into confidence. Jaremiah is keen to learn the law not as a set of rules binding and confining the peripheral of the human world but as an agent of truth and justice for the welfare of the humanity.

The hard times followed in Kentucky. After the Panic of 1819, the legislature passed a law for twelve-month stay of sale for debt. Fort is on the side of the Relief Party. Wilkie is the first to tell Jeremiah of a scandal linking Fort's name with that of Rachael Jordan, daughter of a planter who died heavily in debt. Under the pretext of helping Rachel, settle the estate, Fort seduce the girl and fathered her stillborn child.

Jeremiah feels sorry for Rachel and gets wild for the callous behavior of Fort towards Rachel. He decides to leave the place at once and writes a letter to Fort and informs him of his decision to leave. Before getting the reply to his letter from Fort, Jeremiah goes to visit Thomas Barron an uncle of Wilkie, in Saul County. Jeremiah meets Rachel and wins her confidence by convincing her and later marries her. Rachel marries Jaremiah with a condition that he must kill Cassius Fort.

In the meantime, Jeremiah actively takes part in local politics. Percival Scrogg, who is the editor of a Frankfort newspaper is a fanatic liberal. Wilkie, the friend of Jeremiah also takes part in a disputed election. After a riot at the polls, in which he and Wilkie fought side by side, Jeremiah is dismayed to learn that his friend is working for Fort. Wilkie advises him to put aside personal.

Jeremiah becomes a realist by moving away from idealism. He learns to compromise in his life and becomes a practical man. The readers can see a slow drift in the life of Jeremiah from an idealist to a realist. When he realises that his benefactor has cheated Rachel by seducing her and has become successful in getting some position as a politician, he tries to move away from him. Jeremiah marries Rachel and later loses elections very bitterly. Becoming hopeless in life, enraged Jeremiah kills his benefactor. An old friend of him misguides him and Jeremiah is sent to prison and the tragic lie

of Jeremiah begins here and his wife commits suicide and later he is also murdered when he tries to reveal the truth. The event of a murder of Jeremiah moves in parallel with the story of a man in the historical past called Jeroboam Beauchamp.

The character of Cassius Fort is similar to that of another historical man by the name Colonel Soloman P.Sharp. Sharp was a Solicitor General of Kentucky and was assassinated in the year1825. Thus the historical characters run in parallel with the characters in the story. The history also tells of a lawyer who married a girl whom Colonel had seduced and his name was Jeroboam Beauchamp. Later the man was arrested and was charged with crime and the jury announced him to be hanged. Even the wife met her end very badly by killing herself in the cell

Warren beautifully draws attention of the readers about the beauty of the South along with the events from the history. He offers the intellectual feast to the readers with the variety of subjects like love, violence, politics, idealism, and realism. Warren's expression of thoughts comes out easily in a flowing way without any artificial attempts. Rachel whom Jeremiah marries after having suffered the seduction by Cassius remains faithful to Jaremiah and shares the punishment with him. It is said that fictional Kentucky county is modeled and Simpson County of the real world.

The setting of the novel is best suited for the story, despite some critics criticize it as the least effective location. The real life characters often serve as a raw material for the themes and characters if Warren's novels. The culture tradition and the values mark the story of the novel. The beautiful depiction of the South suits the situation appropriately. Through the character the writer condemns the lawless society and treachery of the people. Historical sense and the events of the history give message of preserving the culture and tradition of the region.

TO SUM UP

The story of the novel is about revenge and the changing life of a man from an idealist into a realist. Struck in the web of the difficulties and helplessness of life and commitments the protagonist of the novel tries to change his own idealism to realism. Change is a way of life and the change is for better. But the mistakes and the fruits of keeping a wrong step results in mis happenings lifelong. The best example for such character is Jeremiah Beaumont of Warren's novel. The socio economic life of the people along with human folly depicted. Keeping these things as the background Robert Penn Warren tells the tragic love story of the youth tied up in the circumstances leaves the readers with some questions.

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